

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

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UNCLAS MEXICO 04666

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS, SFIS, MX
SUBJECT: MEXICAN FISHERY DEVELOPMENT

1. ON MARCH 14 ANNOUNCEMENT WAS MADE BY JORGE MARTINEZ Y GOMEZ, HEAD OF BANCO NACIONAL DE FOMENTO COOPERATIVO (BANFOCO) CONCERNING SUPPORT BY GOM OF ALL NATIONAL SHIPYARDS. SUPPORT WAS EXPRESSED IN MARCH 1, 1978 PUBLICATION IN GOM FEDERAL REGISTER A DECREE PLACING ALL YARDS UNDER ONE AUTHORITY, NAMELY ASTILLEROS UNIDOS DEL PACIFICO, MAZATLAN. IT IS FELT THAT SUCH DECREE WOULD MAKE SHIPBUILDING MORE EFFICIENT AND SPECIFICALLY ACCELERATE CONSTRUCTION OF FISHING VESSELS.

2. MARTINEZ INDICATED GOM PLANS TO BUILD A NATIONAL FISHING FLEET BECAUSE CONSTRUCTION COSTS WILL BE LOWER THAN PURCHASING VESSELS FROM FOREIGN SOURCES. HE ALSO SAID INCREASING THE FISHING FLEET WOULD HELP PROVIDE NEEDED CHEAP PROTEIN TO MEXICAN PEOPLE, AND FISHING INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT IN GENERAL.

3. TO SPUR CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS BANFOCO IS STREAMLINING ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE AND INSTALLING ADDITIONAL OFFICES IN AREAS OF FISHERY ACTIVITY, HE SAID. NOT ONLY WILL
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FINANCING BE PROVIDED TO FISHERY COOPERATIVES FOR CONSTRUCTION VESSELS BUT ALSO FOR PROCESSING PLANTS, REFRIGERATED VANS AND MARKETING OUTLETS.

4. MARTINEZ FURTHER INDICATED BANFOCO HAD PROVIDED 15 OF ITS TOTAL FUNDS TO FISHERY DEVELOPMENT AND AT PRESENT HAS INVESTMENT OF \$1.33 BILLION DOLLARS U.S. IN THAT INDUSTRY.

5. RFA OPINES THAT MARTINEZ'S VIEWS DO NOT AGREE WITH
EARLIER GOM DEPT. FISHERIES STAND WHICH WAS TO GIVE PRIVATE
INVESTMENT GREATER SUPPORT AND LIMIT FINANCIAL ACTIVITY OF
BANFOCO.

6. OPINION OF KNOWLEDGEABLE SOURCES INDICATE UNIFICATION
OF SHIPYARDS WILL MAKE THEM LESS EFFICIENT THAN THEY
ALREADY ARE AND INCREASING BANFOCOS FINANCIAL
ASSISTANCE TO FISHERY COOPS. LEADS TO MORE WASTE OF
GOVERNMENT FUNDS. LUCEY

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TAGS: EFIS, ECRE, MX
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